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FAX NO. 704 375 0729

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

09/857,852

Confirmation No. 1150

Applicant

Boatman, Peter James

Filed:

September 10, 2001

Title:

IMPROVEMENT IN OR RELATING TO PIPES

TC/A.U.

3752

Examiner

Hook, James F.

Docket No. Customer No. 1981/2

: 23638

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action of September 25, 2003.

Introductory Comments begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

Appl. No. 09/857,852 Amdt. dated January 26, 2004 Reply to Office Action of September 25, 2003

## **Introductory Comments:**

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Non-Final Office Action dated September 25, 2003. By way of this amendment, claims 1-19 have been canceled. Claims 22-35 are new. Amendments to the specification have been made. Claims 22-35 are currently pending in the application. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 22-35 at an early date is solicited.